

# Keep La Habra Safe and Healthy Into the Future Frequently Asked Questions

# Q: Where can I access information about COVID and what I can do to keep my family safe?

A: The City team continues the work of serving the public and keeping community healthy and safe. For updates on the City's response to COVID-19 and what we're doing to help, please visit us at <a href="https://www.lahabracity.com/1325/COVID-19-Information">https://www.lahabracity.com/1325/COVID-19-Information</a>.

# Q: Has the City of La Habra issued a State of Emergency?

A: Yes, the City issued a local state of emergency on March 16, 2020, which will remain in effect until further notice. Now more than ever, residents are relying on us to provide critical services to the community, including 9-1-1 emergency response services. We must ensure that we continue to be prepared for any medical or catastrophic emergency by keeping our local Police Department, Fire, and Emergency Medical services personnel ready to quickly and safely help those in need.

#### Q. How does COVID-19 affect my services?

A. In addition to the local state of emergency, the City La Habra is complying with all applicable State and County orders as it relates to COVID-19. City Hall and all public facilities will remain closed until it is safe to reopen. Although City buildings are closed, all essential public services and function of local government continue to operate.

## Q: How do outstanding City needs impact our emergency response?

A: The City spends approximately two-thirds of its budget on public safety. Unfortunately, the cost of the city's fire services contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department for fire protection and 9-1-1 emergency services was already rising significantly each year before the pandemic and we anticipate those cost increases to continue. The City must maintain current police, fire, and paramedic staffing levels in order to respond to any emergency situation.

### Q. Can we rely on the State or Federal Government for assistance?

A. While we are encouraged by the work the state and federal governments are doing to protect the health, safety, and economic security of our residents and local businesses, in these uncertain times, La Habra must be prepared to be self-reliant in addressing our own local priorities, as we have been done when addressing previous challenges.

#### Q. Have any local priorities been identified?

- **A.** Yes. In a recently conducted community satisfaction survey, La Habra residents identified the following service priorities:
  - Improving the ability of the City to respond quickly and effectively to a natural disaster, such as an earthquake;
  - Maintaining firefighter, paramedic and 9-1-1 emergency medical response services:
  - Maintaining gang prevention & anti-gang/anti-drug programs;
  - Improving traffic flow;
  - Protecting groundwater supplies;
  - Removing hazardous waste;
  - Partnering with other North Orange County cities to reduce homelessness and assist families in transition: and
  - Helping local business with the upcoming recovery

#### Q: How can I provide input on my priorities?

A. Join the conversation by completing an online community survey at <a href="https://www.lahabraca.gov/JoinTheConversation">www.lahabraca.gov/JoinTheConversation</a>. Your input will help the City determine the best course of action as part of our future community-responsive planning.